Project examples

**Corrib Gas, Atlantic Ocean**
RSK has been retained by Shell for nearly 15 years to manage the marine environmental aspects for a high-profile project off the west coast of Ireland and has been involved in more than 10 separate marine surveys. This work has included seawater profiling and sampling at a proposed outfall location; photographic surveys of the nearshore habitats on a pipeline route; and grab and sediment profile imagery surveys to assess the condition of the seabed. RSK has also managed all the marine mammal work, including a long-term shore-based survey and the provision of marine mammal observers for construction work.

**Monitoring programme, Arabian Gulf**
On behalf of the government of Kuwait, RSK marine scientists undertook a five-year programme of offshore sampling to provide evidence to a high-profile United Nations programme. This included regular sampling for seabed invertebrates and contaminants using grabs and dredges, and specialist studies using a gravity core to target specific pollution events.

Offshore surveys

Collecting site-specific data on the marine environment forms an essential part of the selection, planning and consents process for marine developments. Unlike pure survey companies, RSK can provide an industry-trusted one-stop shop from survey design and execution through to incorporating interpreted data into site selection, environmental impact assessments or monitoring studies.

Our team of experienced marine ecologists, environmental chemists and geophysicists has extensive first-hand experience of offshore surveys worldwide, including all around the UK and Ireland, and in the Arabian Gulf, the Caspian, the Caribbean region, the South Atlantic and Australia.

Typical projects where RSK has undertaken offshore surveys include:
- offshore wind farms and their export cables
- high-voltage, direct-current interconnector cable routes
- oil and gas exploration and production
- oil, gas and carbon capture and storage pipeline routes
- coastal developments, including ports, harbours and jetties.

We are experienced in managing every size and type of survey, from quick turnaround one-off sampling in UK waters through to long-term international monitoring programmes and from shallow estuaries to continental shelves. We have experience of using rigid inflatable boats and large research vessels. The types of survey we are typically involved include:
- environmental: seabed (benthic) and water column
- geophysical and geotechnical
- fish ecology
- marine mammal and seabird.

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Provision of personnel, worldwide
To ensure high quality work, RSK has provided on-board representatives for clients either from its own experienced marine scientists or through its extensive network of approved suppliers for surveys in, for example, the Caribbean, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the North Sea. RSK marine scientists have also been supplied at the request of survey companies for benthic surveys off Greenland and fish surveys in the North Sea and the Arabian Gulf.

Liquefied natural gas terminal, North Sea
On behalf of a major oil and gas client, RSK worked with the local harbour authorities to undertake seabed sampling at Teesside in relation to planned dredging. The purpose of this survey was to provide baseline data to the authorities on the level of contamination in sediments. RSK marine scientists undertook sampling of surface and at-depth sediment using grabs and gravity cores, which satisfied the regulators and resulted in a dredging licence being issued.

“Your staff provided excellent support for another successful Caspian Sea survey.”
Party chief for a survey in the Caspian Sea on behalf of Exxon

The typical tasks we undertake for a survey include
- advising clients early on the type and scale of survey required to meet consenting requirements and/or in line with best practice
- developing preliminary survey scopes
- identifying and obtaining the necessary permits, notices to mariners, etc.
- preparing invitation to tender documents for survey companies and reviewing the responses
- reviewing the health, safety and environmental performance of survey companies and vessels, and arranging vessel audits
- working with survey company subcontractors and regulators to develop a refined, robust and representative cost-effective survey design
- identifying, sourcing and commissioning suitable vessels and specialist sampling equipment
- organising trusted laboratories to undertake analysis of samples through accredited schemes, for example, the National Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme and ISO 17025.

RSK can also manage all aspects of personnel for surveys, such as the provision of
- experienced, certified survey personnel, including scientists and party chiefs
- client representatives to ensure high-quality, safe work
- specialist subcontractors such as fisheries liaison officers and marine mammal observers.

For further information, visit us at www.rsk.co.uk or contact:
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RSK Group plc has achieved certification to the ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 standards for quality, environmental and health and safety management.